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ABSTRACT

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3 A method of binding a plurality of sheets into a bound sheet stack. The method
4 includes providing a first sheet and a second sheet. At least one of the sheets has a
5 protective coating applied to at least a portion of the sheet. The first and second sheets
6 are overlaid so that at least a portion of the protective coating on one of the sheets
7 contacts the other sheet. A binding energy is then applied to a binding region on the first
8 and second sheets to thereby bind the sheets into a sheet stack. The binding region
9 includes at least a portion of the protective coating on at least one of the sheets, and
10 which is in contact with the other sheet.

TOP SECRET - SECTION 10